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REVIEWS AND MISCELLANY.

THE WORKMAN IN BERLIN.

Recent statistics on the condition of the working classes in Berlin, published by the director of municipal statistics, are reviewed by A. Raffalovich in a March issue of *L'Economiste Français*. The number of laborers or salaried employes of both sexes has increased out of proportion to the increase in population. In 1800 there were about 30,000 employes in Berlin; in 1816, of a population of 182,800, there were 43,700 laborers, using the word in its broadest sense; in 1846, of 390,000 inhabitants, 96,500 were laborers; in 1895 the city had a population of 1,678,000, and 320,000 male and 185,000 female wage-earners. Estimating per thousand inhabitants, the proportion of wage-earners stands as follows:—

	Laborers.	Domestics.
Berlin	524	38
Dortmund	637	27
Aix-la-chapelle	557	35
Dusseldorf	552	36
Leipzig	517	31
Frankfort	432	33
Strasbourg	419	38

According to the census of occupations of 1895 there were in Berlin 18,000 locksmiths, 6400 shoemakers, 19,512 cabinetmakers and joiners, 17,000 workmen in building trades, 13,000 masons, 3200 painters, 10,200 printers, 9400 tailors, 3800 tailoresses, 25,000 seamstresses, 8100 laundresses, 11,254 male and 9873 female servants in hotels, 7171 male and 59,918 female domestics.

The housing of this great laboring class, and of the poor, has long been an object of attention in Berlin. As early as 1796 the dangers of poor ventilation and general unwholesomeness were noticed, while in 1844 an agitation was raised which has continued to the present day. In 1861 there were, on an average, 48 inmates to a tenement house, 57 in 1871, and 73 in 1890. The average annual rent, in marks, has been:—

	1880.	1885.	1890.
Per room	221	235	248
Per inmate	119	122	127

The share of rent in the cost of living is evidently increasing. A characteristic feature in the lodging of the population of Berlin is the large number of "furnished rooms" for night-lodgers. In 1890, 56 per cent of the families had one night-lodger; 29 per cent had two, and 10 per cent three. Some districts of Berlin are densely populated. A private investigation of 781 houses, undertaken in 1893, to ascertain the pecuniary return from the rental of a cubic meter of air, proved it to be in 75 per cent of the cases from two to three marks a year. Various efforts have been made to improve sanitary conditions. In 1848 there was organized in Berlin, under the name of *Berliner gemeinnützige Baugesellschaft*, a society for the purpose of constructing sanitary dwellings at low cost and of aiding the occupants to become owners. At the end of 1895 this society had 59 buildings with 580 tenements and 1906 tenants. The rent varies from 100 to 500 marks a year. The Berlin Building Association was formed in 1886 with the particular aim of building cheap homes in the suburbs for workmen. The entrance fee is two marks, the shares 200 marks, contributed in weekly payments; the dividend paid is five per cent. This society has 809 members, and had in 1895 built 149 homes, of which 75, with a total value of 1,120,266 marks, mortgaged for 670,500 marks, had been deeded to members. There have been various other attempts along the same line and several other societies formed, of which the *Deutsche Volksbau Gesellschaft* and the *Berliner Spar und Bauverein* may be especially mentioned.

The death rate in the districts where the workmen live is high. This is due to the great number of births and the excessive mortality among new-born infants. In the well-to-do and rich quarters of the city the mortality of new-born infants is from 148 to 192 per thousand, but in the poorer districts it rises to 346 per thousand. It is quite difficult to obtain statistics as to illness in the laboring classes. The following table from the *Gewerkskrankenverein* may give some idea of the amount:—

		1892.	1895.
Average number of members	. .	285,644	92,053
Illnesses	199,461	93,186
Per cent of sick	97	101
Injuries	13,192	5,892

The mortality from tuberculosis is enormous, one-fourth of the deaths of males and one-third of the deaths of females being due to this disease. Dr. Sommerfeld attributes 60 per cent of the deaths

among cigarmakers to diseases of the lungs; among painters, 55 per cent; printers, 44 per cent; bookbinders, 57 per cent; masons, 38 per cent; and 29 per cent among butchers.

In Germany compulsory insurance is one of the most important measures adopted for the protection of the workman. The municipal authorities in 1850 introduced compulsory insurance against illness for the employes of stores and manufactories in Berlin. The men were obliged to subscribe to a benefit fund. In 1854 these benefit funds numbered 74 with 34,460 members, and assessments of 675 thalers from the employers and 86,318 thalers from the employes. The statistics of benefit funds in 1895 were as follows:—

	Local Funds.	Funds of Manufactories.	Funds of Societies.	State Funds.	Free Funds.
Funds.....	59	29	18	2	36
Members, male.....	209,185	35,752	17,903	19,083	19,222
Members, female...	96,051	4,247	4,930	1,224	7,059
Receipts.....	m. 8,841,977	m. 1,263,236	m. 472,316	m. 460,090	m. 646,184
Expenses.....	m. 8,460,890	m. 1,213,588	m. 436,871	m. 459,639	m. 604,882
Physicians' fees....	774,330	157,828	34,000	79,000	65,975
Drugs.....	994,031	163,000	41,303	62,000	58,744
Indemnities....	2,676,698	527,226	118,853	210,343	221,000
Days ill.....	2,682,000	401,301	133,515	125,309	154,965

About 415,000 persons are insured against illness, and 539,000 against old age and disability. For the latter 5,429,000 marks in assessments has been contributed, 580,000 marks paid in pensions, and 105,000 marks returned to women who have married. Over 200,000 workmen are insured against accidents, the building trades furnishing about a fourth of that number. There are from 4000 to 5000 accidents annually. Ten medical stations with beds have been provided so that immediate attention may render the period of incapacity as short as possible.

Since 1870 Berlin has provided free instruction in the primary school grades. In 1896 there were 147 communal schools with 190,462 pupils, comprising two-thirds of the children of Berlin, at a total expense of 10,500,000 marks, or 56½ marks per child. The course includes four hours each of religion, writing, reading, and arithmetic, and two of history, geography, natural history, geometry, drawing, singing, and gymnasium. A strong effort has been made

to put supplementary courses within the reach of wage-earning children by evening and Sunday instruction.

Another feature of advantage to the workman is the inspection of factories. This was carried out in 1895 by a chief-inspector, three assistant inspectors, and four deputies. There were 4770 establishments with 150,238 workmen, of whom 104,000 were males above 16, 37,416 women, 4754 youths between 14 and 16 years of age, and 3351 young girls. Half of these establishments were inspected, but a good part of the investigation was limited to an inspection of the steam boilers. One of the chief duties of the inspector is to be a mediator between employer and employes, that is, an instrument of reconciliation. Each Friday evening, and twice a month on Sunday, he must be at the disposal of the employes who wish to consult him, but the number who do so is not large.

The industrial tribunal (*Gewerbegericht*) before which cases between employer and employe are tried has been in operation several years. The judges are named by the city and are assisted by elected deputies consisting of an equal number of employers and employes. In 1893 the employers brought complaint in 356 cases only; in 1894, 216; and in 1895, 386. The greater part of the cases are concerned with law suits for the payment of wages or indemnity for dismissal. Forty per cent of the suits were terminated by reconciliation, 19 per cent by the withdrawal of the plaintiff, 13 per cent by default.

Berlin has an attraction for the people of the provinces, not only, as is often believed, on account of the pleasures of city life which it offers, but even more by the seemingly superior opportunities for work and higher earnings. Consequently there has been an enormous influx of provincials to the capital, who, upon reaching the railway station, become at once a prey to the solicitors of employment bureaux. These bureaux demand a high commission, and their proprietors make large profits. One class of employment bureaux consists of agencies established by the employers, as, for example, the bureau for metal workers, which in 1896 found situations for 21,281 men. The workmen on their part have also organized labor exchanges. In the brewing trade there is a bureau administered jointly by four employers and four employes. Enrollment costs 20 pfennigs, and in case of obtaining a situation the applicant gives six marks and the employer three marks to an aid fund. In 1896, 5000 marks

were laid aside, 2200 marks spent, 1709 men placed in permanent and 2372 in temporary situations. In 1883 a central employment association was established by private initiative, which, in coöperation with the municipal authorities, found places in 1896 for 11,318 coachmen, day-laborers, etc., 4630 painters, 1483 locksmiths, 1300 plumbers, 155 masons, and 1662 women. The newspapers gave valuable assistance either by gratuitous insertion of "wants" or by the free distribution of leaflets containing offers of employment.

Hirschberg's figures on the wages of unskilled labor show that Berlin ranks with Frankfort and Hamburg: —

	Adult Males.		Adult Females.	
	1884.	1892.	1884.	1892.
Berlin.....	m. 2.40	m. 2.70	m. 1.50	m. 1.50
Aix-la-chapelle..	2.00	2.10	1.20	1.40
Breslau	1.60	2.00	1.00	1.10
Elberfeld.....	2.40	2.40	1.50	1.50
Frankfort.....	2.40	2.50	1.70	1.80
Hamburg	2.50	3.00	1.85	2.00
Cologne.....	2.50	2.50	1.50	1.50

The skilled workman is of course better paid. Omnibus drivers and others engaged in transportation earn from three to five marks per day. Wages of tailors are not so good, since the men earn only 12 to 15 marks a week, and the women finishers 8.50 to 15 marks a week. The nominal wages of domestic servants are little higher, but they are lodged and fed.

	Lowest.	Medium.	Highest.
Maid of all work..	m. 135	m. 165	m. 240
Child's nurse.....	105	150	180
Cook.....	180	210	300
Sick nurse.....	240	300	360

Counting living expenses at 1 mark per day these wages are comparatively good.

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